

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner objects to the substitute specification with respect to a number of informalities. All of those informalities have been remedied based on the suggestions provided by the Examiner with the exception of the heading suggestions. Since the headings are optional, Applicants elect to maintain the headings employed in the substitute specification.

Regarding the brief description of Figure 4, the reference to the cross-section line is changed to "line IV-IV." In addition, a brief description of each one of the Figures in Figure 7-12 is provided. Page 7, line 24, is amended to refer to "a joining conductor 533 shown in Fig 5c," per the Examiner's request. In the description of Fig 7, from page 8, line 23 through page 10, line 11, is corrected so that the reference numerals consistently refer to sections and the directions of extension do not have corresponding reference numerals. These changes overcome the inconsistencies noted by the Examiner.

Regarding reference numeral 130 in Fig 1, page 3, line 16 is amended to refer to both Figs 1 and 2 when the top layer 130 of a ferroelectric material is described. With respect to the voltage polarity symbols +/-, the description of Figs 2 and 4 now includes an explicit reference to the plus (+) and minus (-) symbols as indicating in the polarity of the applied voltage. The imaginary line C in Fig 3 is now described on page 5, line 23. With respect to the objection to the drawings, the reference to the line III-III on page 3, line 1, is corrected to the line IV-IV, which is shown in the replacement Fig 3 submitted in the last response.

Accordingly, it is believed that all objections to specification and the drawings have been overcome with this response. Withdrawal of the same is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph for indefiniteness. For the Examiner's information, claim 7 is directed for example to the embodiment of Fig 8. The term "points" is replaced with "location" which is meant to be a descriptive rather than a structural feature. Claim 7 covers a conductor overlap such as that illustrated in Fig 8.

Claims 1 and 4 are amended to refer to "mirror images," and claim 3 now refers to "said third conductor," as requested by the Examiner.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph is requested.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Das (US 6,076,001). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Das discloses a co-planar waveguide line variable time delay device formed by three conductor lines on a ferroelectric material. When a voltage is applied between two of the lines, the permittivity is changed such that the time delay is changed (see column 3, line 43-66). In an embodiment in Fig 15, two mirrored meander lines are disclosed with a straight line between them (see column 8, line 37-47).

Claim 1 of the present application, recites that the first and second conductors have alternating propagation directions, i.e., the sections in the second, third, fourth and fifth directions, of extension and that tuning is accomplished by applying a voltage between the first and second conductors.

The description of the meander lines in Figure 15 is based on the description of Figure 9. As explained for Figure 9, a voltage is applied between the center conductor line and one of the other conductor lines. This is also the case as is shown in Figure 15, where the voltage V is applied between the straight center conductor line and one of the meander lines. So Das is missing two features of claim 1. First, in contrast to claim 1, Das's voltage V is applied between

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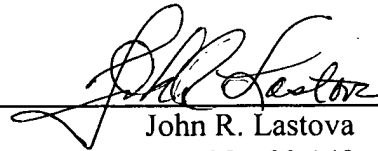
the straight center conductor line 9 and one of the meander lines 5 and 43, rather than between the two meander lines 5 and 43. Second, claim 1 recites that both the first and second conductors require alternating extension directions, i.e., the meander lines or "zigzag" lines. Das's straight conductor line 9 lacks the claimed alternating sections.

The application is now in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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